

e.) Remarks.

By this amendment, claims 1, 9, 11, 17, 21, 22, 25, and 42 have been amended. Claim 43 has been added. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification. Specifically, for claims 1, 21, 22, 42, and 42, support can be found in figures 1, 2, and 5. Claims 11, 17, and 25 were amended as requested the Examiner. As such, no new matter has been introduced and Applicant respectfully requests the amendments and new claim be entered. As such, claims 1-9, 11-32, and 39-43 are pending.

Remarks Regarding Objections to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Specifically the Examiner contends that the clause “in parallel two-dimensional planes” of claim 9 and the elements of claims 39-41 are not shown in the Drawings. With respect to claim 9, the claim has been amended to recite “at least two of said first, second and third sections are in parallel two-dimensional planes.” This is shown in Figures 1, 2, 5, and 6. Looking at Figure 2, sections 16 and 20 are in parallel two-dimensional planes (i.e. the planes perpendicular to the plane of the page). Since all the elements of claim 9 are shown, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection.

With respect to claims 39-41, new Figure 6 has been added to show multiple clasps, each attached to a flexible cord, connected to one another via a connection device. Support for this figure can be found in paragraph [0035], and thus no new matter has been introduced. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection.

Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claim 9 stands rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not enabled. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner contends that “[t]here is no enablement for indicating how the sections defined in claim 1 are configured so to be ‘in parallel two-dimensional planes.’” As amended, however, claim 9 now recites “...at least two ... sections are in parallel two-dimensional planes.” This can most clearly be seen in Figures 1, 2, 5, and 6. In each of these Figures, sections 16 and 20 are in parallel two-dimensional planes (i.e. the planes perpendicular

to the plane of the page). Therefore, claim 9 is enabled and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 11, 17 and 25 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicant has amended each of these claims to correct the deficiencies. Specifically, claim 11 has been amended to depend on new claim 43, instead of cancelled claim 10. Claims 17 and 25 have both been amended to recite “the first section is attached to the grip portion,” instead of being attached to itself as the Examiner pointed out. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, and 42 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Prosen (U.S. Patent No. 5,035,558). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Specifically, the Examiner contends that Prosen teaches all of the elements recited in independent claims 1, 21, and 42. However, as amended, claims 1, 21, and 42 now recite, “...wherein the attachment portion and the grip portion are interconnected ...” This element can most clearly be seen in Figure 2, where it can be seen that grip 22 and cord attachment 26 are both defined by the same space. In the device in Prosen, on the other hand, the grip portion 5 and the attachment portion 13 are on opposite sides of the clasp. Furthermore, grip portion 5 is a fully enclosed circular space, while the space of attachment portion 13 is separate and not enclosed. Since Prosen does not have an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected, Prosen does not teach or even suggest all of the elements recited in independent claims 1, 21, and 42. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Remarks Regarding 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-5, 12, 13, 22-24, 26-28, 30 and 31 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Prosen in view of Chaun (U.S. Patent No. 4,831,692). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Furthermore, with respect to claim 2, as the Examiner points out, the Prosen hook of Figure 5 is an intermediate hook, i.e., not at an end, whereas Applicant clearly claims a “terminus” location. The Examiner contends that “it would have been obvious to modify the end hooks of Prosen so as [to] utilize hooks with a pinching portion at the ends as taught by Chuan while maintaining the perpendicular sections taught by Prosen...” However, such a modification would still not yield the clasp of claim 2. The open slot 2221 of Chuan, like the slot 14 of Prosen is not interconnected as recited in claim 1, from which claim 2 depends. Therefore, even if Prosen and Chuan were combined all of the elements of claim 2 would still not be taught or suggested and, thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

With respect to claims 12-14, 27, and 28, the arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Prosen in view of Chaun, and in further view of Simon (U.S. Patent No. 3,328,064). The Examiner states that Simon teaches the use of aluminum or steel for the clasps. The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 17 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Prosen in view of Chaun, and in further view of Yonts (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,236). The Examiner states that Yonts teaches placing the grip portion 10 so that the first section separates the grip portion from the second and third sections of the hood portion. The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically,

an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Prosen in view of Schrader (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,327). The Examiner states that Schrader teaches the use of bungee type cords for holding a ladder to a vehicle rack. The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Prosen in view of Chaun, and in further view of Schrader. The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 39 and 41 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Schwab (U.S. Patent No. 5,797,167), in view of Prosen. The arguments above regarding Prosen are specifically incorporated by reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen. Furthermore, with respect to Schwab, the Examiner contends that Schwab “teaches a securing device comprising a plurality of cords 1, 2 having two ends appear, wherein one end of each cord is connected to one other cord at a single position 7 and the other ends of the cords are connected to a clasp 8 to define a symmetric structure at each end.” However, reference numbers 7 and 8 are actually both clasps on either end of the apparatus. Furthermore, cords 1 and 2 extend from clasp 7 to clasp 8. Thus, each end of cords 1 and 2 are connected to a clasp and both ends of cord 1 and 2 are connected together at each clasp. Therefore, Schwab does not teach “one end of each cord is connected to one or more other cords at a single position and wherein the other ends of the cords are connected to the clasp” as recited by claim 39. Therefore, the combination of Schwab and Prosen do not teach or even suggest all of the elements of claims 39 and 41, and Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 40 stands rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over Schwab, in view of Prosen, and in further view of Vasilopoulos (U.S. Patent No. 5,722,125). The arguments above regarding Prosen and Schwab are specifically incorporated by

reference. Specifically, an attachment portion and a grip portion that are interconnected is not taught or even suggested by Prosen and “one end of each cord is connected to one or more other cords at a single position and wherein the other ends of the cords are connected to the clasp” is not taught or even suggested by Schwab. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

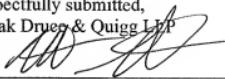
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner’s Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this Responsive Amendment, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 14-1437 for any such fees, referencing Attorney Docket No. 8106.002.US**; and Applicant hereby petitions for any needed extension of time not otherwise accounted for with this submission.

Date: June 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
Novak Druce & Quigg LLP
By 
Matthew Smith
Registration No. 62,545

Customer No. 69911
Novak Druce & Quigg LLP
1000 West Tower
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 659-0100 (telephone)/ (202) 659-0105 (facsimile)